NASA Contractor Report 181920 ICASE Report No. 89-67

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(NASA-CR-181920) SHOCK CAPTURING BY THE SPECTRAL VISCOSITY METHOD Final Report (ICASE) 15 p - CSCL 12A

N90-10639

Unclas G3/64 0235051

Contract No. NAS1-18605 September 1989

Institute for Computer Applications in Science and Engineering NASA Langley Research Center Hampton, Virginia 23665–5225

Operated by the Universities Space Research Association



Langley Research Center Hampton, Virginia 23665-5225 7:00

## SHOCK CAPTURING BY THE SPECTRAL VISCOSITY METHOD $^1$

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#### ABSTRACT

A main disadvantage of using spectral methods for nonlinear conservation laws lies in the formation of Gibbs phenomenon, once spontaneous shock discontinuities appear in the solution. The global nature of spectral methods then pollutes the unstable Gibbs oscillations overall the computational domain, and the lack of entropy dissipation prevents convergences in these cases.

In this paper, we discuss the Spectral Viscosity method, which is based on high frequency-dependent vanishing viscosity regularization of the classical spectral methods. We show that this method enforces the convergence of nonlinear spectral approximations without sacrificing their overall spectral accuracy.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Research was supported in part by NASA Contract No. NAS1-18605 while the author was in residence at the Institute for Computer Applications in Science and Engineering (ICASE), NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA 23665. Additional support was provided by U. S.-Israel BSF Grant No. 85-00346.

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

We consider the  $2\pi$ -periodic one-dimensional system of conservation laws

(1.1a) 
$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f(u)}{\partial x} = 0,$$

with prescribed initial conditions,  $u(x, t = 0) = u_0(x)$ . We recall, [4], that solutions of (1.1a) may develop spontaneous jump discontinuities (shock waves) and hence the class of weak solutions must be admitted. Moreover, since there are many possible weak solutions, the system (1.1a) is augmented with an entropy condition which requires

(1.1b) 
$$\frac{\partial U(u)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial F(u)}{\partial x} \le 0.$$

Here, U(u) and  $F(u) \equiv \int^{u} \langle U'(w), f'(w)dw \rangle$  is any entropy function and the corresponding entropy flux pair associated with (1.1a), so that a strict inequality in (1.1b) reflects the existence of physically relevant shock waves in the entropy solution of (1.1a), (1.1b).

We want to solve the  $2\pi$ -periodic initial-value problem, (1.1a), (1.1b), by (pseudo-) spectral methods. To this end, we use an N-trigonometric polynomial

$$u_N(x,t) = \sum_{k=-N}^N \hat{u}_k(t)e^{ikx},$$

in order to approximate the spectral or  $\psi$ dospectral projection of the exact solution, u(x,t). Let  $S_N u$  and  $\psi_N u$  denote, respectively, the spectral-Fourier and the  $\psi$ dospectral-Fourier projections of u(x,t), and let  $P_N u$  stands for either one of these two projections. Then, starting with  $u_N(x,0) = P_N u_0(x)$ , the standard Fourier method, [1], lets  $u_N(x,t)$  evolves at a later time according to the (2N+1)-dimensional approximate model

(1.2) 
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}[u_N] + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}[P_N f(u_N)] = 0.$$

We can rewrite this approximation in the equivalent form

(1.3) 
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}[u_N] + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}[f(u_N)] = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}[Eu_N], \quad Eu_N = (I - P_N)f(u_N).$$

The expression inside the right brackets is the local error (due to spatial discretization). The approximation (1.2) - or equivalently (1.3), is consistent with the conservation law (1.1) in the sense that its local error does not exceed

(1.4) 
$$||Eu_N = (I - P_N)f(u_N)|| \leq Const_1 \cdot \frac{1}{N} ||u_N||_{H^1}.$$

In fact, the usual spectral estimates, [10], tell us that the approximation (1.2) is arbitrarily high-order (or spectrally) accurate approximation of the conservation law (1.1a). Namely, for any  $s \ge 1$  there exists a constant,  $Const_s$ , such that

(1.5) 
$$||Eu_N|| \leq Const_s \cdot N^{-s} ||u_N||_{H^s}.$$

The SV method was introduced in [11] where compensated compactness arguments were used to show convergence in the special case of the scalar Burgers' equation. The convergence proof of the SV method was then extended in [5], [9], [12], to include general scalar and certain  $2 \times 2$  systems of conservation laws. In the next sections, we outline the practical considerations involved in the implementation of the SV method, and we give a bird's eye view of the above mentioned convergence results. Finally, we provide numerical evidence which shows how post-processing of the SV solutions enables to recover with spectral accuracy the pointwise values of the exact entropy solution.

#### 3. CONVERGENCE OF THE SV METHOD

The modified equation associated with the SV method (2.2) takes the form

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}[u_N] + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}[f(u_N)] = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}[Eu_N].$$

The local error in this case,  $Eu_N$ , consists of two contributions: the discretization error we had before in (1.3), and the additional viscosity error introduced on the right of (2.2), i.e.,

(3.1b) 
$$Eu_N = (I - P_N)f(u_N) + \varepsilon_N Q_N * \frac{\partial u_N}{\partial x}.$$

Integrating (3.1) against  $u_N$  over the  $2\pi$ -period we obtain

$$\frac{1}{2}\frac{d}{dt}\int_0^{2\pi}u_N^2(x,t)dx=-(\frac{\partial u_N}{\partial x},Eu_N).$$

Thus, the quantity on the right represents the amount of (quadratic) entropy dissipation rate. The counterexample discussed in Section 1 tells us that the control of such quantity is necessary for convergence. This brings us to

**DEFINITION**. [12, Section 3]. The approximation (3.1a) is consistent with the entropy condition, if there exist constants, Const. > 0 and  $\varepsilon_N \downarrow 0$  such that

$$(3.3) -(\frac{\partial u_N}{\partial x}, Eu_N) \leq -Const.\varepsilon_N \|\frac{\partial u_N}{\partial x}\|^2 + \|u_N\|^2, \quad \varepsilon_N \geq \frac{1}{N}.$$

Using compensated compactness arguments, the main results of [12, Section 6] asserts that this kind of consistency together with  $L^{\infty}$ -stability imply convergence. We shall use this framework to prove the convergence of the SV method.

The special form of the local error,  $Eu_N$ , in (3.1b) reveals that the entropy consistency requirement (3.3) is fulfilled, if a sufficiently large amount of SV regularization,  $\varepsilon_N Q_N$ , is present. Indeed, taking into account the a'priori estimate (1.4) and using Parseval's relation, we conclude that entropy consistency is achieved with SV kernels satisfying,

$$\hat{Q}_{k}(t) \geq Const. - \frac{1}{\varepsilon_{N}k^{2}}.$$

Can we use such a viscosity kernels without sacrificing spectral accuracy? using a vanishing viscosity amplitude of order, say,  $\varepsilon_N \gtrsim \frac{1}{N}$ , we find by (3.4), that the viscosity coefficients,  $\hat{Q}_k(t)$ , should be activated only for high modes with wavenumbers  $|k| \geq m_N$ , where

$$(3.5a) m_N \sim N^{\beta}, \quad \beta < \frac{1}{2}.$$

The resulting SV method then takes the form

$$(3.5b) \qquad \frac{\partial}{\partial t}[u_N] + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}[P_N f(u_N)] = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{m_N \le |k| \le N} k^2 \hat{Q}_k(t) \hat{u}_k(t) e^{ikx}.$$

It differs from the standard Fourier method (1.2) by the spectrally small amount of viscosity added on the right of (3.5b). Indeed, the contribution of this kind of viscosity to the local error in (3.1b), does not exceed

$$\|\varepsilon_N Q_N * \frac{\partial u_N}{\partial x}\| \leq Const_s \cdot m_N^{-s} \|u\|_{H^s},$$

which retains the (formal) overall spectral accuracy of the Fourier method

$$||Eu_N|| \le Const_s \cdot N^{-\beta s} ||u_N||_{H^s}.$$

Thus, by augmenting the Fourier method with a spectrally small amount of viscosity, we are able to enforce a sufficient amount of entropy dissipation so that the entropy consistency requirement (3.3) is met. Moreover, in the next section we show that this kind of spectral viscosity guarantees that our approximation,  $u_N(x,t)$ , remains uniformly bounded

(3.7) 
$$||u_N(x,t)||_{L^{\infty}} \leq M(t).$$

Consequently, the (entropy) consistency and  $L^{\infty}$ -stability imply that the SV method converges for a wide class of scalar conservation laws as well as certain  $2 \times 2$  conservative systems, [9], [12].

### 4. DECAY AND CONVERGENCE RATES

In order to gain a better insight into the role of spectral viscosity, it is instructive to study the decay rate of the Fourier coefficients,  $\hat{u}_k(t)$  and  $\hat{f}_k(t) \equiv \hat{f}_k(u_N(t))$ . This program was carried out in [5] for the special case of Burgers' equation, and in [9] for the general scalar problem. An iterative argument outlined in [5], [9], shows that the presence of SV separates the computed spectrum into three different regions.

- 1. Wavenumbers in the "inviscid" region  $|k| \leq m_N$ . The corresponding amplitudes,  $\hat{u}_k(t)$  and  $\hat{f}_k(t)$  are then governed by the underlying nonlinear conservation law.
- 2. Wavenumbers outside the "inviscid" region,  $m_N \leq |k| < N$ . Here we find that due to nonlinear interaction with the spectral viscosity, the corresponding amplitude dissipate at rate

$$(4.1a) |\hat{u}_k(t)| + |\hat{f}_k(t)| \le Const_s \cdot \left(\frac{N}{\epsilon_N k^2}\right)^s + e^{-Nt}, m_N \le |k| \le N.$$

In particular, we have here a transition to a third distinctive region, namely

3. Wavenumbers located at the highest portion of the spectrum, say  $\frac{1}{2}N \leq |k| \leq N$ . Then, by (4.1a), the corresponding amplitudes are negligibly small, i.e., with vanishing viscosity amplitude of order  $\epsilon_N \gtrsim N^{-2\beta}$ , we have

$$(4.1b) \qquad |\hat{u}_{\pmb{k}}(t)| + |\hat{f}_{\pmb{k}}(t)| \leq Const_{\pmb{s}} \cdot N^{-(1-2\beta)\pmb{s}} + e^{-Nt}, \quad \beta < \frac{1}{2}, \quad \frac{1}{2}N \leq |k| \leq N.$$

We conclude that the presence of spectral viscosity enforces a spectral decay of the discretization error

(4.2) 
$$||(I-P_N)f(u_N)|| \leq Const_s \cdot N^{-(1-2\beta)s} + e^{-Nt}, \quad \beta < \frac{1}{2}.$$

We observe that the spectral decay of the discretization error is valid independently whether the underlying solution is smooth or not, [5, Section 3], [9, Section 3]. This shows that the SV solution is essentially governed by the equation

(4.3) 
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}[u_N] + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}[f(u_N)] = \varepsilon_N \frac{\partial}{\partial x}[Q_N * \frac{\partial u_N}{\partial x}].$$

This equation is closely related to the standard viscous regularization (2.1). We note, however, that unlike (2.1), the viscosity regularization in (4.3) is nonlocal due to the finite support of the convoluted kernel  $Q_N(x,t)$ .

One can use now the viscous equation (4.3) in order to obtain a uniform bound on the SV solution. Integrated against  $pu_N^{p-1}(x,t)$  over the  $2\pi$ - period, equation (4.3) yields

$$\frac{d}{dt} \|u_N\|_{L^p} \le \varepsilon_N \|\frac{\partial}{\partial x} [I - Q_N] \frac{\partial u_N}{\partial x} \|_{L^p}.$$

Standard trigonometric estimates can be used to upper bound the RHS of (4.4),

(4.5) 
$$\varepsilon_N \| \frac{\partial}{\partial x} [I - Q_N] \frac{\partial u_N}{\partial x} \|_{L^p} \le Const. \| u_N \|_{L^p}.$$

Indeed, the inequality (4.5) is just an  $L^p$ -version of the entropy consistency estimate stated in (3.3), consult [12, Section 5]. Hence, by combining (4.4), (4.5) and carefully iterating on the  $L^p$ -norms of  $u_N(x,t)$ , we derive the  $L^\infty$ -bound of  $u_N(x,t)$  promised earlier.

Furthermore, Schochet [9] used the viscous equation (4.3) in order to conclude an almost optimal  $L_1$ -convergence rate of the SV method, namely

$$||u_N - u||_{L^1} \leq Const. N^{-\beta}, \quad \beta < \frac{1}{2}.$$

Figures 4.1 and 4.2 compare the behavior of the spectral-Fourier method with and without spectral viscosity in the case of Burgers' equation, which is subject to initial condition,  $u_0(x) = \sin x$ . The resulting ODE system for the Fourier coefficients

(4.7) 
$$\frac{d}{dt}\hat{u}_k(t) + \frac{1}{2}ik\sum_{p+q=k}\hat{u}_p(t)\hat{u}_q(t) = -\varepsilon k^2\hat{Q}_k\hat{u}_k(t), \quad |k| \leq N,$$

was integrated up to time t=1.5, using the fourth-order Runge-Kutta method. The method was complemented with viscosity coefficients  $\hat{Q}_k \equiv 1$  only for wavenumbers  $|k| \geq m_N$  where  $m_N \sim 2N^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . Figure 4.1 shows that the SV solution convergence strongly (but not uniformly) to the exact entropy solution, in sharp contrast to the oscillatory behavior of the viscosity-free Fourier method in Figure 4.2. Improved results were obtained in Figure 4.3, by using  $C^{\infty}$  viscosity coefficients,  $\hat{Q}_k$ , connecting wavenumbers in the inviscid region,  $|k| < m_N$ , and the highest wavenumbers,  $|k| \sim N$ . This kind of smoothly varying SV prevents the propagation of the Gibbs phenomenon into the whole computational domain that can be noticed in Figure 4.2, consult [11]. Moreover, Figure 4.4 shows this SV solution after it was post-processed by the spectrally accurate smoothing procedure discussed in [2]. Finally, in Table 4.5, we quote from [6], the pointwise errors of the post-processed SV solution for the Burgers' equation. The results indicate the spectral convergence rate obtained by the post-processed SV solution in the shock-free zones of the entropy solution.

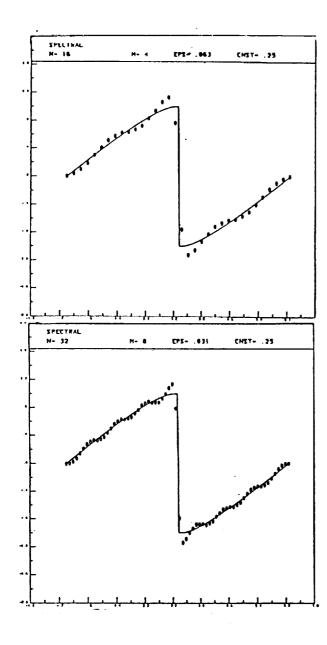


Figure 4.1. The SV method for Burgers' equation.

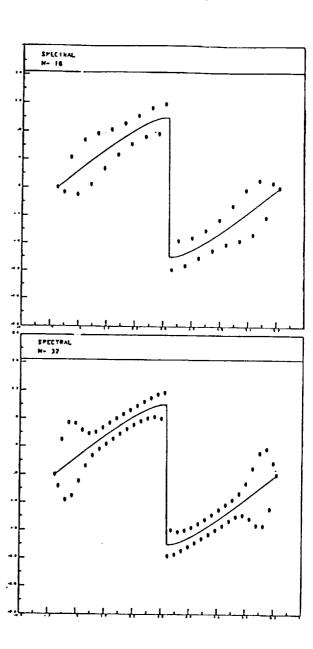


Figure 4.2. The spectral Fourier method for Burgers' equation.

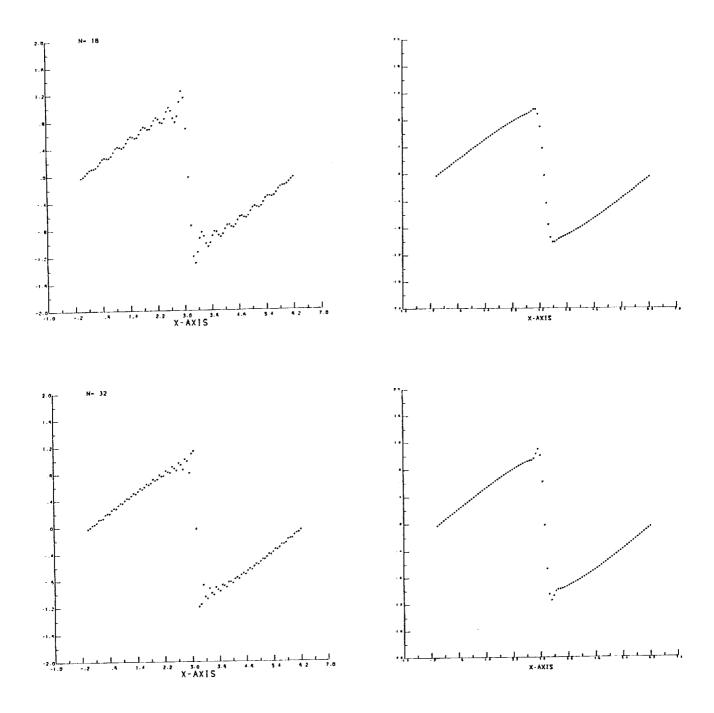


Figure 4.3 Figure 4.4

The pseudo-SV method with smooth viscosity kernel before and after post-processing.

	$ u_N(x,t) - u(x,t) $ at $t = 1.5$				
x =	N = 16	N=32			
.314	$5.7 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$2.3 \cdot 10^{-4}$			
.628	$3.9 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$2.8 \cdot 10^{-4}$			
.942	$7.2 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$2.7\cdot 10^{-4}$			
1.25	$1.2 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$2.8 \cdot 10^{-4}$			
1.57	$1.4\cdot 10^{-2}$	$2.8 \cdot 10^{-4}$			
1.88	$1.7 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$3.0 \cdot 10^{-4}$			
2.19	$2.0\cdot 10^{-2}$	$3.6 \cdot 10^{-4}$			
2.51	$2.1\cdot 10^{-2}$	$4.3 \cdot 10^{-4}$			

Table 4.5

Pointwise errors of the post-processed pseudo-SV approximation compared with the exact entropy solution of Burgers' equation.

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1. Report No. NASA CR-181920 ICASE Report No. 89-67	2. Government Access	ion No.	3. Recipient's Cata	log No.			
4. Title and Subtitle			5. Report Date				
SHOCK CAPTURING BY THE	Y METHOD	September 1989 6. Performing Organization Code					
7. Author(s) Eitan Tadmor	8. Performing Organization Report No.						
			89-67 10. Work Unit No.				
9. Performing Organization Name and Ad	505-90-21-01						
Institute for Computer A and Engineering Mail Stop 132C, NASA Lan	11. Contract or Grant No.  NAS1-18605						
Hampton, Virginia 23665 12 Sponsoring Agency Name and Address	Address	13. Type of Report and Period Covered					
National Aeronautics and Langley Research Center Hampton, VA 23665-5225		tion	Contractor Report  14. Sponsoring Agency Code				
15. Supplementary Notes							
Langley Technical Monito Richard W. Barnwell	::		Proc. of the ICOSAHOM Meeting Italy, June, 1989				
Final Report							
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17. Key Words (Suggested by Author(s))		18. Distribution Staten	nent				
conservation laws, spect spectral viscosity	64 - Numerical Analysis						
		Unclassifie	d - Unlimited				
19. Security Classif. (of this report)	20. Security Classif. (of this page)		21. No. of pages	22. Price			
Unclassified	Unclassified		13	Δ03			

NASA FORM 1626 OCT 86

